2. As per the information received from the States/UTs, on implementation of the land ceiling laws, an area of 68.59 lakh acres has been declared surplus, of which 59.98 lakh acres has been taken possession of, and 49.68 lakh acres has been distributed to 55.34 lakh beneficiaries, of whom 39 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes and 15 per cent to Scheduled Tribes. In addition, 153.22 lakh acres of Govt. wasteland, and 16.66 lakh acres of Bhoodan land, have been distributed to the eligible rural poor.

State-wise package of village industries

†3989. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any system has been developed in co-ordination with the representatives of other Ministries and States for preparing State-wise package of village industries to provide decisive job to the villagers in the village itself;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government on its suitability and possibility;

(d) whether there is any plan/mechanism for making such system in States and providing research oriented consultation to them; and

(e) the State-wise lists of the work done in the said direction during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Government is supplementing the development and promotion of village industries by State Governments by implementing various developmental schemes. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing a Central sector credit-linked subsidy programme for assisting the entrepreneures in establishing village industries units in rural areas and small towns.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Developing centres of excellence in nano technology

3990. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is discouraging duplication of research in the areas of nano technology and is formulating an integrated approach to develop centres of excellence in nano technology across the country;

(b) if so, whether any mission bound management structure with a well defined blue print has been taken up for consideration;

(c) if so, whether the above measures are adequate to catch up with the progress made in other countries; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) if not, the reasons for not taking up the issue of nano technology on fast track?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The Government has already launched a Mission on Nano Science and Technology (Nano Mission) in May, 2007 with an allocation of Rs. 1000 crore for five years to promote the upcoming area of nano science and technology in the country. The Nano Mission has a management structure which ensures that efforts made by various Government departments, academic and research institutions and also the industry to promote nano science and technology are synergistic and complementary in nature and undesirable duplication of research is avoided.

As part of the Nano Mission, it is planned to launch a variety of educational and HRD programmes, Research & Development (R&D) programmes, establish centres of excellence and sophisticated characterization facilities, promote institution-industry linked projects through increased public private partnerships, promote entrepreneurship through establishment of business incubators, encourage industry to directly undertake product-oriented research projects, etc. A well-defined plan has been drawn up to promote this area of research in a comprehensive fashion involving all the players in the R&D sector.

As a result of Nano Mission activities, and also the promotional efforts made by the Government earlier, a core community of about 300 researchers and research students has been nurtured in this field. M.Sc./M.Tech. programmes in several institutions have been started, Several sophisticated characterization facilities have been established, About 20 centres of excellence have also been established in important areas such as biosensors, printable electronics, drug delivery, smart textiles, etc. The Government has spent approximately Rs. 400 crore to promote R&D in nano science and technology so far. three major centres of excellence, costing approximately Rs. 100 crore each, will also be set up shortly at Mohali, Bangalore and Kolkata. It is felt that these measures would adequately intensify R&D in nano science and technology in the country and make it internationally competitive.

Effects of rupee escalation on textile industry

3991. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to recent escalation of rupee value the textile industry is affected badly;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the effects on exports, loss of employment etc.; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to protect the small and minor cloth manufacture from these negative effects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The Textiles trade bodies and associations have represented that the appreciation of the rupee *vis-a-vis* US dollar during 2007, has adversely affected the exports of textiles and clothing from India. However, trade statistics available for the period April-December, 2007 indicate that the overall exports at USD 14935.69 million in this period denotes an increase of 9.33% in US dollar terms, over the corresponding period of 2006-07, though in rupee terms, the exports at Rs. 60351.09 crore represent a small decline of 2.9% over the corresponding period of 2006-07, due to the aforesaid weak position of the dollar.